



NOTES

FACTITIOUS DISORDERS

MUNCHAUSEN SYNDROME

osms.it/munchausen-syndrome

PATHOLOGY & CAUSES

- Fabricating/exaggerating physical/psychological symptoms in oneself/another
- Both types motivated by desire for sympathy/attention

TYPES

Munchausen syndrome

- Faking/exaggerating symptoms in oneself
 - AKA factitious disorder

Munchausen syndrome by proxy

- Purposefully inducing symptoms in another (e.g. a child, elder, family member, pet)
 - AKA factitious disorder by proxy/factitious disorder imposed on another

CAUSES

- High comorbidity with mood/personality disorders

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Munchausen syndrome

- Feigned symptoms

Munchausen syndrome by proxy

- Purposefully inducing symptoms in another
- High level of perceived interest in victim/victim's condition (if applicable)

Both types

- Limited but highly-relevant medical knowledge

DIAGNOSIS

Munchausen syndrome

- Fabricating/exaggerating physical/psychological symptoms
- Seeks self to be treated as ill/impaired/injured

Munchausen syndrome by proxy

- Purposefully inducing symptoms in another
- Seeks victim to be treated as ill/impaired/injured
- Diagnosis for perpetrator, not victim

Both

- Behavior occurs even without obvious rewards (e.g. insurance claim)
- Not caused by other condition
- Can occur once, multiple times

TREATMENT

PSYCHOTHERAPY

- Various psychotherapy methods

Munchausen syndrome by proxy

- Family therapy helpful
- Separate perpetrator, victim
- Treat victim for induced illness/injury/emotional trauma

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